

Current Sustainability Initiatives for Government Operations (September 2023)

Department/Division	Program/Activity	Sustainability Focus Area				
		Air	Water	Energy Efficiency	Land	Waste & Recycling
Administrative Services	Centralized Energy Tracking			✓		
	Data Dashboard	✓	✓	✓		
	Design & Construction Standards Document	✓	✓	✓		✓
	Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging	✓				
	Electronic Record Keeping					✓
	Environmentally Preferred Purchasing Guidelines					✓
	SOAR Initiative				✓	
	Surplus Market					✓
Aging & Adult Services	Café Model at Senior Centers					✓
	Geothermal Energy (Magna & Millcreek Senior Centers)			✓		
	Reusable To-Go Containers at Senior Centers					✓
	Reuse of Battery Heated Bags					✓
	Trip-Chaining with Software System	✓				
Clark Planetarium	Solar on Facilities			✓		
Countywide	Environmental Impact Preference for Vehicle Selection and Purchasing (Policy 1350)	✓				
	Hybrid Vehicles and Transition to Electric	✓				
	LED and Induction Lighting Upgrade			✓		
	LEED Standard/Energy Efficiency	✓	✓	✓	✓	
	Localscaping		✓		✓	
	Policy on Vehicle Engine Idling (Policy 1360)	✓				
	Priority Parking Spaces for Carpool	✓				
	Secure Bicycle Parking	✓				
	Teleworking (Policy 2-600)	✓				
	Trip Reduction Program	✓				
Emergency Management	Restricting Fireworks	✓				
Health Department	Electric Fleet	✓				
	Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging	✓				
	Household Hazardous Waste Disposal					✓
Human Resources	Route Maps in SLCo Buildings	✓				
	Subsidized Transit Passes	✓				
	Vanpooling	✓				
Human Services	Electronic Record Keeping					✓
	Solar on Facilities			✓		
Landfill	Employee Education Campaign for Metal Recycling					✓
	Household Hazardous Waste Disposal					✓
	Methane Collection			✓		✓
	Tire, Mattress, and Metal Recycling					✓
	US Composting Council (USCC) Certification					✓
Library	Geothermal Energy (Millcreek Community Center)			✓		
	Solar on Facilities			✓		
Parks & Recreation	Artificial Turf Fields		✓			
	Audit Outdoor Water Systems		✓			
	Best Design Practices for Irrigation Systems		✓			
	Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging	✓				
	Geothermal Energy (Millcreek Community Center)			✓		
	Golf Course Management		✓			
	Grass Clippings Mulched					✓
	Natural Space Preservation		✓			
	Open Spaces				✓	
	Smart-Water Management		✓			
	Solar Heated Pool			✓		
	Trails				✓	
	Transitioning Water Recreation		✓			
	Urban Farming Program				✓	
	Weather Track		✓			
Public Works	Fleet Management					✓
	Riparian Restoration		✓		✓	
	Solar on Facilities			✓		
	Water Quality Dashboard		✓			

Additional Detail - Current SLCo Sustainability Initiatives by Focus Area

Air:

1. **Data Dashboard:** The Data & Innovation division has played a pivotal role in maintaining an interactive data dashboard. This dashboard serves as a valuable tool for monitoring and managing data related to sustainability initiatives, enabling us to track and assess improvements over time.
2. **LEED Standard/Energy Efficiency:** Salt Lake County follows LEED standards and has adopted energy-efficient practices in new builds and large remodels. These efforts encompass various county facilities and operations, contributing significantly to reducing energy consumption and emissions.
3. **Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging:** To promote the use of electric vehicles and reduce emissions, EV charging stations have been strategically placed at various Salt Lake County facilities. These stations are an essential part of our sustainable transportation infrastructure, with efforts led out by Administrative Services, Health Department and Parks & Recreation.
4. **Trip-Chaining with Software System:** The Human Services department is taking innovative steps by implementing a software system that encourages trip-chaining, a practice that strategically routes stops to deliver meals. This approach not only enhances efficiency but also lowers emissions, contributing to improved air quality.
5. **Hybrid Vehicles and Transition to Electric:** Various agencies throughout SLCo are actively transitioning to hybrid and electric vehicles. This transition aligns with our goal of reducing the carbon footprint of the SLCo vehicle fleet.
6. **Electric Fleet:** The Salt Lake County Environmental Health Department leads, by example, operating an electric fleet of vehicles. This transition to electric vehicles significantly reduces emissions, supporting our broader sustainability objectives.
7. **Trip Reduction Program:** The Trip Reduction program focuses on reducing unnecessary trips and promoting employee engagement in sustainable transportation practices.
8. **Environmental Impact Preference for Vehicle Selection and Purchasing (Policy 1350):** Fleet management follows a countywide policy that prioritizes the selection and purchase of environmentally friendly vehicles.
9. **Teleworking (Policy 2-600):** The IS/IT and Human Resources departments jointly proposed Policy 2-600, to encourage remote work to reduce carbon emissions associated with daily commuting. This policy not only supports sustainability but also offers flexibility to SLCo employees.
10. **Design & Construction Standards Document:** The Facilities division is dedicated to following a comprehensive document outlining sustainable design and construction standards. These standards are consistently implemented countywide, ensuring that our buildings and infrastructure are energy-efficient and environmentally responsible.
11. **Subsidized Transit Passes:** Human Resources offers subsidized transit passes to employees, promoting the use of public transportation as an air-wise commuting option.
12. **Route Maps in SLCo Buildings:** Human Resources enhances the accessibility of public transportation by providing route maps in building lobbies. These maps encourage county employees to choose sustainable transportation modes.
13. **Priority Parking Spaces:** Priority parking spaces for carpoolers are at the Government Building to incentivize carpooling thus, reducing the number of vehicles on the road and lowering emissions.

14. **Vanpooling:** To further encourage sustainable commuting practices, SLCo subsidizes the majority of the cost for employees to participate in vanpooling. Membership fees are paid through a pre-tax semi-monthly payroll deduction, making vanpooling an attractive option. Human Resources coordinates this initiative.
15. **Secure Bicycle Parking:** Recognizing the importance of cycling as a sustainable mode of transport, secure bicycle parking are provided at various SLCo facilities. This infrastructure supports employees who choose to bike to work.
16. **Policy on Vehicle Engine Idling (Policy 1360):** Fleet management has implemented Policy 1360, a policy aimed at reducing vehicle engine idling. This practice reduces unnecessary emissions and contributes to cleaner air in our county.
17. **Restricting Fireworks:** Emergency Management has taken proactive steps to improve air quality and reduce wildfire risk by restricting the use of fireworks. This measure helps mitigate the release of pollutants into the air during festive occasions.

Water:

1. **Data Dashboard:** The Data & Innovation division has played a pivotal role in maintaining an interactive data dashboard. This dashboard serves as a valuable tool for monitoring and managing data related to sustainability initiatives, enabling us to track and assess improvements over time.
2. **Best Design Practices for Irrigation Systems:** Parks & Recreation is actively implementing best design practices for irrigation systems at parks and facilities throughout SLCo. This includes upgrading pipes and infrastructure to ensure efficient water distribution and reducing wastage.
3. **Weather Track:** Parks & Recreation has also implemented a smart system to track weather conditions and watering schedules. This data-driven approach enables us to use water more efficiently, aligning irrigation with actual weather conditions.
4. **Golf Course Management:** Parks & Recreation is dedicated to increasing the rough and reducing non-playable land on golf courses. This strategy is designed to conserve water resources while maintaining recreational amenities.
5. **Artificial Turf Fields:** Parks & Recreation is implementing water conservation measures by returfing fields and replacing lawn with artificial turf. This approach reduces the demand for irrigation water.
6. **Localscaping:** Promoting Localscaping throughout SLCo is a key initiative. This landscaping method utilizes native plants that require less water, contributing to water conservation efforts across the county.
7. **Water Quality Dashboard:** The Public Works department utilizes a comprehensive water quality dashboard, featuring data on snowpack, streamflow, precipitation gauges, and stream water quality. This dashboard aids in monitoring and managing our water resources effectively.
8. **Riparian Restoration:** The Public Works department plays a crucial role in riparian restoration efforts. This initiative aims to improve water quality and habitat on SLCo land.
9. **Design & Construction Standards Document:** The Facilities division adheres to a document outlining sustainable design and construction standards. These standards are consistently implemented countywide, ensuring that water-efficient practices are integrated into new and large remodel projects.
10. **Audit Outdoor Water Systems:** Parks & Recreation conducts regular audits of outdoor water systems. These audits help identify opportunities for water conservation and optimization of irrigation practices.

11. **LEED Standard/Energy Efficiency:** Salt Lake County follows LEED standards and has adopted energy-efficient practices in new builds and large remodels. This extends to water-efficient systems and practices, contributing to overall sustainability goals.
12. **Smart-Water Management:** Parks & Recreation continues to prioritize smart-water management and conservation practices, especially in our arid climate. These efforts strike a balance between the demand for outdoor recreation and responsible water usage.
13. **Natural Space Preservation:** Parks & Recreation actively preserves natural spaces, with improvements planned for Dimple Dell Park and Jordan River Park. These efforts contribute to the conservation of our water ecosystems.
14. **Transitioning Water Recreation:** Parks & Recreation has adopted a strategy of building water playgrounds instead of traditional pools. This innovative approach conserves water resources while providing recreational opportunities.

Energy Efficiency:

1. **Data Dashboard:** The Data & Innovation division has played a pivotal role in maintaining an interactive data dashboard. This dashboard serves as a valuable tool for tracking energy usage and efficiency across the county.
2. **Centralized Energy Tracking:** The Facilities department has taken significant steps toward increased energy efficiency by centralizing the tracking of energy usage through a designated individual. This approach ensures a focused and systematic approach to energy management.
3. **LEED Standard/Energy Efficiency:** Salt Lake County follows LEED standards and has adopted energy-efficient practices in new builds and large remodels. This comprehensive approach encompasses various county facilities and operations, significantly reducing energy consumption.
4. **Solar on Facilities:** Solar panels have been installed on various Salt Lake County facilities, including the Clark Planetarium, Fleet Admin Building, Youth Services Admin Building, Libraries, and the Salt Lake County Environmental Health Department. These solar installations contribute to our clean energy goals and reduce our reliance on traditional energy sources.
5. **Solar Heated Pool:** The innovative use of solar energy to heat the pool at the Sorensen Recreation Center substantially reduces the amount of electricity and natural gas required for heating pools. This not only saves energy but also reduces operational costs.
6. **Geothermal Energy:** Salt Lake County is pioneering the use of geothermal energy for heating and cooling at the Millcreek Community Center and Magna Senior Center. This marks the first application of this sustainable technology in our county facilities.
7. **LED and Induction Lighting Upgrade:** A significant lighting upgrade has been initiated, replacing existing lighting systems with energy-efficient LED and induction lighting. This upgrade is projected to save the county 1.2 million kilowatts of energy annually, reducing our carbon footprint.
8. **Methane Collection:** The Landfill department collects methane, a greenhouse gas, from the landfill and repurposes it as fuel. This sustainable practice not only reduces emissions but also powers 3,000 homes in Murray City, demonstrating our commitment to renewable energy sources.
9. **Design & Construction Standards Document:** The Facilities department adheres to a document outlining sustainable design and construction standards. These standards are implemented countywide, ensuring that new and large remodel construction projects prioritize energy efficiency.

Land:

1. **SOAR Initiative:** The Administrative Services department is actively engaged in implementing the SOAR initiative. This forward-looking program focuses on the future planning and land use of government buildings, promoting efficiency and environmental responsibility.
2. **Trails:** Parks & Recreation is dedicated to the development and maintenance of sustainable trails for public recreation. These efforts not only provide recreational opportunities but also ensure responsible land use and conservation of natural areas.
3. **Open Spaces:** Parks & Recreation is committed to securing land gradually and establishing conservation easements. This long-term approach aims to protect natural spaces, preserve biodiversity, and ensure the sustainable management of our county's open areas.
4. **Riparian Restoration:** The Public Works department's initiatives in riparian restoration are crucial for improving water quality and habitat along riverbanks. These efforts contribute to the overall health of our water ecosystems and demonstrate our commitment to responsible land management.
5. **Localscaping:** Promoting Localscaping, a landscaping method that utilizes native plants to conserve water and support local ecosystems, is a countywide effort. This sustainable landscaping approach helps conserve water resources and fosters biodiversity.
6. **Urban Farming Program:** Salt Lake County actively supports an urban farming program that promotes local food production and reduces the environmental impact of transportation. This initiative not only enhances food security but also minimizes carbon emissions associated with long-distance food transportation.
7. **LEED Standard/Energy Efficiency:** As with other areas, Salt Lake County maintains a commitment to LEED standards and the adoption of energy-efficient practices in land management, reinforcing our dedication to sustainability.

Waste & Recycling:

1. **Electronic Record Keeping:** The Contracts & Procurement and Human Services departments have transitioned from paper to electronic record keeping, enhancing environmental efficiency. This initiative has been implemented throughout the county, reducing paper waste and streamlining record-keeping processes.
2. **Environmentally Preferred Purchasing Guidelines:** The Contracts & Procurement division composed an environmentally preferred purchasing guidelines and maintains a resource page. These guidelines prioritize the procurement of environmentally friendly products and services, aligning with our commitment to sustainability.
3. **Grass Clippings Mulched:** Parks & Recreation has implemented a grass clippings mulching program as part of our waste reduction efforts. This practice not only reduces green waste but also enriches soil quality, promoting a more sustainable approach to landscaping.
4. **Reuse of Battery Heated Bags:** Aging and Adult Services has adopted a sustainable approach by reusing battery-heated bags for Meals on Wheels instead of purchasing new ones. This initiative reduces the generation of waste and conserves resources.
5. **Reusable To-Go Containers at Senior Centers:** To further reduce waste generation, Aging and Adult Services encourages the use of reusable to-go containers at senior centers. This initiative provides seniors with sustainable options for their meals.
6. **Café Model at Senior Centers:** Some senior centers have adopted a café model to reduce food waste. This innovative approach ensures that food is prepared and served efficiently, minimizing waste while enhancing the dining experience for seniors.

7. **Employee Education Campaign for Metal Recycling:** The Landfill runs an education campaign for employees to recycle metal. As an incentive, monetary rewards are offered, motivating employees to actively participate in metal recycling efforts.
8. **Methane Collection:** The Landfill department collects methane, a greenhouse gas, from the landfill and repurposes it as fuel. This sustainable practice not only reduces emissions but also powers 3,000 homes in Murray City, demonstrating our commitment to renewable energy sources.
9. **Tire, Mattress, Metal Recycling:** The Landfill offers recycling services for tires, mattresses, and metals. This initiative diverts these items from the SLCo landfill, extending the life of our disposal sites and reducing environmental impacts.
10. **US Composting Council (USCC) Certification:** The Landfill has achieved USCC certification for its composting practices. This certification recognizes our commitment to sustainable waste management and environmentally responsible composting.
11. **Surplus Market:** Contracts & Procurement operates a surplus market for the reuse of goods for County operations. This initiative encourages reusing surplus items from agencies that no longer need materials while providing opportunities for others to acquire needed resources.
12. **Design & Construction Standards Document:** The Facilities department adheres to a document outlining sustainable design and construction standards. These standards are implemented countywide, ensuring that new and large remodel construction projects prioritize energy efficiency.
13. **Household Hazardous Waste Facility:** The Landfill and the Salt Lake County Environmental Health Department jointly play crucial roles in environmental protection by operating a dedicated Household Hazardous Waste Facility.
14. **Fleet Management:** The Fleet department ensures that the sale and disposal of county vehicles are conducted in an environmentally responsible manner.